

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently Amended). A composition that comprises a laser-markable material that absorbs radiation at a wavelength of at-10,600 nm, a solvent, and a conductive polymer ~~that~~, wherein the conductive polymer absorbs IR radiation, and wherein the laser-markable material forms a mark when irradiated with a laser at a wavelength of 10,600 nm.

2 (Currently Amended). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a binder having a labile group that can undergo an elimination reaction to give a colour-forming entity.

3 (Previously Presented). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the laser-markable material comprises a multivalent metal that undergoes a colour change due to a change in oxidation state, on irradiation.

4 (Previously Presented). The composition according to claim 3, wherein the laser-markable material is an octamolybdate.

5 (Previously Presented). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a colour-former.

6 (Currently Amended). The composition according to claim 5, which comprises a ~~substantially~~ colourless electron-donating dye precursor.

7 (Withdrawn and Previously Presented). A method for providing an image on a substrate, which comprises applying to the substrate a laser-markable material that absorbs at 10,000 nm and a conductive polymer that absorbs IR radiation, followed by infrared irradiation.

8 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 7, wherein the irradiation is by means of a laser emitting light at a wavelength of 800-1500 nm.

9 (Currently Amended). ~~The composition according to claim 4,~~ A composition that comprises a laser-markable material that absorbs radiation at a wavelength of 10,600 nm, a solvent, and a conductive polymer;

wherein the conductive polymer absorbs IR radiation;

wherein the laser-markable material forms a mark when irradiated with a laser at a wavelength of 10,600 nm;

wherein the laser- markable material comprises a multivalent metal that undergoes a colour change due to a change in oxidation state, on irradiation; and

wherein the laser-markable material is ammonium octamolybdate.

10 (Currently Amended). ~~A~~ The composition according to claim 1, wherein the conductive polymer comprises linked monomers that are conjugated and which, therefore, allow delocalization/conduction of a positive or negative charge.

11 (Previously Presented). The composition according to claim 10, wherein the monomers that are conjugated are selected from aniline, thiophene, pyrrole, furan and substituted derivatives thereof.